

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT  
PUBLIC SESSION  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2011  
7:00P.M.**

**1. OPENING**

**1.1.1 Call to Order**

Council President Porter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**1.1.2 Roll Call**

Present: Councilmember LaTasha Gatling, Mayor Eugene Grant (Late Arrival 7:17pm), Councilmember Darrell Hardy, Council President Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr., Councilmember Elenora Simms, Councilmember Aretha Stephenson, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin (Absent)

Staff: Robert Ashton, City Treasurer, Vincent Jones, City Administrator, Lauren Hayes, Human Resources Officer, Johnny Thompson, Director of Public Works

**1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:**

The invocation was given by Councilmember Stephenson

**1.1.4. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved with the following modifications:

- Strike 6.1. Final Review and Approval of Personnel Manual

It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

**1.1.5. Reading/Approval of Public Session, Regular Work Session Meeting Minutes:**

- It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the Regular Work Session meeting minutes for Monday, September 7, 2011. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the Special Session minutes for Monday, September 12, 2011. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.

- It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the Public Session minutes for Monday, September 12, 2011. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved
- It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the Regular Work Session meeting minutes for Monday, October 3, 2011. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the Public Session meeting minutes for Monday, October 10, 2011. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the Special Session meeting minutes for Monday, October 12, 2011. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved
- It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the Special Session meeting minutes for Monday, October 24, 2011. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved

## **2. PRESENTATIONS:**

**2.1.** Richard Longstreth, George Washington University-He stated that he would like to perform a history study on Seat Pleasant on the infrastructure, schools and activity. They began in 2000 beginning with Bowie, Twin Brook and Rockville. These communities tended to be taken for granted. His book began in Levistown, PA. It was a special in the post war era. He stated the Seat Pleasant played a role in the County when it was a suburban area. His class consists of ten (10) students and they will have a research paper that can be shared with the community. Some communities have asked specifically for them to look at the historic aspect, such as Hyattsville. They are looking forward to working with Mr. Jones and others from the City and the Planning Board. He does not know if there is a historic part of town. He stated that he would be looking into Booker T Homes.

Councilman Porter stated that the Council will be discussing this in the Regular Work Session about moving forward.

### **2.2. Passing of the Gavel by Council President Porter-**

- Council President stated that it is a tradition of the Council to pass the gavel of the outgoing Council President. He stated that Councilwoman Gatling had served as Council President for two (2) years.

### **2.3. Committee Certificate of Appreciation-**

- Councilwoman Simms received her certificate for Chairing the Economic Development Committee

- Councilwoman Stephenson received a certificate for chairing the Budget and Finance Committee
- Councilman Raynor received a certificate for chairing the Public Safety and Civil Rights Committee
- Councilman Hardy received a certificate for chairing the Public Works and Transportation committee.
- Councilman Porter received a certificate for chairing the Government Affairs Committee

#### **2.4. Certificate of Completion-**

- Councilwoman Simms received a proclamation and certificate from the National League of Cities
- Dashaun Lanham, City Clerk received a certificate of completion from Old Dominion University for completing the Certified Municipal Clerk Training
- Councilman Porter received his Regent Diamond Certificate from National League of Cities.

#### **2.5. Resignation Letter**

- Councilwoman Gatling stated that she regrets to inform the Council and community that she will be resigning effective December 31, 2011.
- She stated that she is still a tax paying citizen of Seat Pleasant and she still resides in the 24<sup>th</sup> Legislative District.
- Mayor Grant stated that he wanted to respond that he has a letter with a signature from Councilwoman Gatling resigning from the Council. He stated that she has been on the council for three (3) years. He stated that she was talented and thanked her for sharing them with us.
- It is not often that an individual makes a great impression in such short time. Her colleagues elected her three (3) times to serve as Council President.
- He stated that on behalf of the Office of Mayor he wanted to say Thank you for your service, talent that you shared with us as City.
- He appreciated her for stepping up and serving, sacrificing her time, and she works at four (4) different universities as a professor.
- Councilwoman Simms says that it is still shocking to her and she knows that she will miss her, and their debates. She wished her the best in her endeavors
- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that she is an inspiration and she will continue to pray for her. She wished her the best and knows that she will do well.
- Councilman Raynor stated that if it wasn't for her he would not be on the Council. He wished her the best in her endeavors.

- Councilman Hardy thanked her for her talents and wished her the best in her endeavors.
- Councilman Porter stated that it was such a surprise. He did not want to get choked up.

### **3. LEGISLATION**

3.1. Ordinance O-12-10 City Personnel Rules and Regulations was introduced by the City Council on Monday, November 14, 2011. The first reading was declared. The second reading was conducted on Monday, December 14, 2011. It was motioned by Councilwoman Stephenson and seconded by Councilman Hardy to approve Ordinance O-12-10. The motion carried.

FOR: Hardy, Porter, Raynor, Simms, Stephenson

ABSTAIN: Gatling

AGAINST: None

Mr. Jones stated that he wanted to thank Lauren Hayes, Human Resource Officer for her hard work and diligence in getting manual revised.

### **4. REPORTS**

#### **4.1. Mayor's Report:**

- Mayor Grant stated that he was still in shock about his colleague resigning.
- He wanted to bring to the residents attention three bills. PG417-12 Homeowners Tax Credit. He stated that so many people will benefit from the bill. Please make phone calls and write letters in support of the bill when the session begins in January.
- PG-410-12 Children with Developmental Disability. He stated that Seat Pleasant Elementary School has the largest autism population with 75 students who all passed the Maryland State Test. He stated that there are resources needed to sustain the individuals. Please call to support the bill
- PG402-12 Bag Tax-Mayor Grant stated that he was opposed as he feels the bill is costly to residents and people without money to pay for bags. He is asking the Council to look up the bills. He stated they will be listed in the legislative packet.
- He stated that no one from the House side will be in attendance at the Legislative Breakfast due to Delegate Howard's Prayer breakfast being on the same day. We set the date in accordance to the County Executive schedule. However, we will ensure that they receive a copy of the packet.

- He stated that the Health Summit Initiative has been discussed and hopes in a week or two that we should be able to provide primary care out of Prince George's Hospital. We are going after transitional funding and innovative funds, which has about 7 billion dollars. He has brought an internationally known firm to the table.
- The City of Seat Pleasant should be proud as we are the leading on this effort.

#### **4.2. Kelly Porter, Council President Report:**

- Council President Porter stated that his monthly report is on the information stand.

#### **4.3 Kevin Brenner, Chief-Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department**

- Chief Brenner was absent and no report was submitted for the month of December.

#### **4.4. City Administrator – Vincent E. Jones**

- Mr. Jones stated that he wanted to start out with an apology as we will not have representation from the Seat Pleasant Police Department. We had an unfortunate accident on Seat Pleasant Drive. We are working with Opto Traffic to install another camera on Seat Pleasant Drive.
- November was a busy month for us as we submitted the grant for CDBG.
- He stated that the County has begun work on Addison Road for the ICBN
- Economic Development Coordinator-Sunny Cooper thanked us for the wonderful way she was introduced to the City Council.
- Ms. Cooper stated that she is from Baltimore, Maryland.
- She teaches part-time at Coppin State and worked with the State of Maryland writing proposals.

#### **4.5. Finance Department- Robert Ashton, Treasurer**

- Mr. Ashton stated that the Council will receive their stipend electronically.
- He stated that the program to assist residents who are veterans where those who are considered disabled don't have to pay taxes. He will check into the spouse receiving the same benefits.
- He chimed in briefly on the Homeowners tax credit. He stated for everyone to be consistent on their definition of income.
- He stated that it will pass. He stated that we were approved for our tax differential. He stated that it benefits you by paying less to the County.

- He thanked Councilwoman Gatling for working with him and stated that he would miss her.

#### **4.6. Police Department – Samuel Prue, Chief of Police**

- Mr. Jones stated that the Police Chief is out sick today, but his report was submitted in writing.

#### **4.7. Public Works Department- Johnny Thompson, Director of Public Works**

- Mr. Thompson stated that he wanted to start out by saying to Councilwoman Gatling that in the walk of employment you do not get to choose who you work with. He stated that you sometimes work with the good, bad and ugly.
- He thanked Councilwoman Gatling for her leadership and stated that he would work for her again. He stated that he honored her and appreciates the respect she has shown him.
- He stated that they are researching alternative ice preventive measures, as salt destroys your streets.
- He has requested the residents to park in their driveways during snow removal.
- He stated that snow emergency routes will be determined at a later date. He stated that we have a closed-in tractor. We have reaffirmed our relationship with salt supplies and we have a Hyattsville to serve as a backup.
- Mr. Jones explained that the City of Hyattsville will serve as back up to provide salt to the City, if we are in situation that we cannot get salt from the County.
- Mayor Grant asked Mr. Thompson if the County ever denied the City access to salt. Mr. Thompson said the City has never been denied salt from the County.

#### **5. CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

1. James Wright – 500 70<sup>th</sup> Street, Seat Pleasant, MD 20743, stated to Councilwoman Gatling that she will be missed much. He stated that she had come to the meeting and explained about snow-mageddon. He thanked her and said that she would be greatly missed.
2. He stated that he has been missing the Public Session because he was a member of the Prince George's County Citizens Police Academy. He stated that if the police department has some down time, please allow it. You really don't understand what they are going through in the field. He just found out today that he will be a member of the Metro Advisory Council on Thursday, December 15, 2011. He stated that he will work to make sure that the inner beltway gets as much service when it comes to cuts.

3. Wilhelmina Evans – She wished the City of Excellence a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. She encouraged everyone to take time to celebrate the Lord's birthday.
4. Eugene Kennedy – 6112 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant, MD, he stated that he was qualified to do voter registration this year. He stated that he would be willing to sit in City Hall to assist people with getting registered to vote in Maryland. He stated that if you wanted to be a judge you can get money to be an election judge. Mayor Grant requested that Mr. Kennedy get with Ms. Sanders so she can put a blurb in the Newspaper.

**6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**6.1 None**

**7. NEW BUSINESS:**

**7.1. None**

**8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 8.1. Seat Pleasant Legislative Breakfast, Thursday, December 15, 2011, Seat Pleasant Activity Center at 7:30a.m., BY INVITATION ONLY

**9. ADJOURN-** The meeting was adjourned at 8:25p.m.

Submitted by,



Dashaun N. Lanham  
City Clerk